

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 /065 W
-----020446 210254Z /12

R 202001Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4445
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LISBON

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USEEC

BELGARDE FOR CSCE DELEGATION

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR FR UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV ARRIVES AGAINST BACKGROUND OF
DEMONSTRATIONS

1. AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR OF SPECULATION BREZHNEV
FINALLY ARRIVED IN PARIS TODAY, WHERE HE WAS WELCOMED
BY GISCARD IN DRIZZLY RAIN AGAINST BACKGROUND OF
IMPRESSIVE MILITARY HONOR GUARD WHICH CULMINATED
CEREMONY BY FIRING 101 CANON ROUNDS.

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2. ARRIVAL STATEMENTS WERE WARM BUT ENTIRELY
PREDICTABLE. GISCARD, WHO HAD ALREADY SENT SUPER-WARM
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE, MADE FURTHER SPECIAL MENTION OF
BREZHNEV'S NEW FUNCTIONS AS HEAD OF STATE; LISTED THE
MAJOR PROBLEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, DETENTE, NON-
PROLIFERATION, THE ARMS RACE AND TENSION SPOTS; AND

EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE COUNTRIES' CONCEPTIONS DIFFER, FRANCE HAS MADE "DELIBERATE AND PERMANENT CHOICE" OF POLICY OF DETENTE. EACH SIDE CONTINUES TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF ITS PEOPLE. HOWEVER DETENTE IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO CONFRONTATION AND DESTRUCTION. "IN EUROPE ONLY FRANCE AND THE USSR CAN GICZNT ITS SEAL OF AUTHENTICITY." BREZHNEV REPLIED MORE BRIEFLY WITH REFERENCE SERIOUS WORK TO BE DONE WHICH WILL BE USEFUL TO DEVELOPING FRIENDSHIP AND UNIVERSAL PEACE. HE EXPECTED TALKS TO BE POSITIVE, USEFUL AND FRUITFUL.

3. THE TWO LEADERS THEN TOOK OFF FOR RAMBOUILLET, AMONG TIGHTEST, MOST ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS SEEN IN FRANCE FOR SOME TIME, WHERE BREZHNEV WILL, INTER ALIA, GET TWO MORE SNAZZY CARS AS PRESENTS FROM FRANCE: A MATRA BAGHERA (LIGHT GREEN) AND A MATRA RANCHO (GREEN AND BLACK). DURING LAST OFFICIAL VISIT IT WAS A CITROEN.

4. IN SPITE OF GOVERNMENT'S EVIDENT PAINS, THE FRENCH CAPITAL SO FAR DID NOT REFLECT MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR VISIT AS MICHEL TATU DULY NOTED IN TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN LE MONDE. ON EVE OF VISIT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL ANTI-BREZHNEV DEMONSTRATIONS BY GROUPS, BOTH OF RIGHT AND LEFT, IN PARIS, STRASBOURG, GRENobel AND ELSEWHERE. ON CHAMPS ELYSEE TEAR GAS WAS USED, A POLICEMAN WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIGHTLY WOUNDED AND FIAT'S SHOW WINDOWS WERE DESTROYED IN RATHER EXTENSIVE SCUFFLE CONNECTED WITH BREAKING UP ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATION. A DAY OR SO EARLIER "FRANCE-USSR," THE BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP ORGANIZATION WHICH PUBLISHES MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SAME NAME, ALSO HAD ITS OFFICES TOTALLY DESTROYED BY AN EXPLOSIVE. MOREOVER, PARIS IS NOW POCKMARKED BY A SUDDEN CASE OF ANTI-BREZHNEV POSTERS, WHICH ARE MOST UNFLATTERING TO HIM. AND PRESS OF COURSE CONTAINS EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY DOSE OF LETTERS AND OTHER PIECES ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO DISSIDENTS RELATING BREZHNEV AND BELGRADE.

5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND TATU OFFERS THREE COMMENTS ON VISIT IN HIS EDITORIAL: FIRST, THAT RESPECT FOR USSR HAS CLEARLY DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS; SECONDLY, THAT UNLIKELYHOOD OF BREZHNEV MEETING WITH MARCHAIS, WHICH HAD BEEN CUSTOMARY DURING PREVIOUS VISITS, UNDERSCORES EXTENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EURO-COMMUNISTS AND MOSCOW; AND THIRDLY, THAT MAIN FUNCTION OF VISIT, WHICH TAKES PLACE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF SOVIET PROBLEMS WITH US, IS TO SHOW THAT THINGS ARE NOT GOING ALL THAT BADLY FOR THE USSR. HOWEVER, AS A MEDIUM-

SIZED POWER, TATU CONCLUDES, FRANCE IS NOT ABLE TO DO
MUCH FOR USSR, PARTICULARLY IN KEY AREA OF DISARMEMENT.
NO GREAT RESULTS SHOULD THEREFORE BE EXPECTED FROM THIS VISIT.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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